(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):

(a) to (c) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts./UTs. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance for tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned a number of tourism projects relating to development of Tourist Destinations, Rural Tourism and Travel Circuits to the State of Nagaland.

During the current year 2004-05, a project for the development of Eco-tourism Cum Convention Centre at Piphema at an estimated cost of 351.00 lakhs has been sanctioned under the Destination Development Scheme.

Development of Sipra Sarupalli tourism project in Orissa

1295. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa propose to develop Sipra Sarupalli tourism project between Puri and Chilika;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Centre would also help the cash-strapped State in this venture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such project for development of tourism infrastructure at Sipra Sarppalli between Puri and Chilika has been received from the Orissa Government so far.

(b) to (d) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaking by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, also sanctions tourism projects at tourist sites of

National and International importance in various States/UTs in consultation with them.

Lack of knowledge of guides

1296. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authorised guides who conduct the tourists to various historical monuments in the country do not possess adequate knowledge and information relating to the monuments being visited and, reportedly, convey wrong or incorrect information to the visitors and the foreign tourists, in particular, prefer to depend on their own authentic books/literature, instead; and

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received, if any, and steps being taken to suitably brief and train the guides assigned to various monuments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Tourist Guides are inducted through an intensive training programme and from time to time they attend Refresher Courses to upgrade their knowledge of tourist products.

Constitution of National Water Mission

†1297. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision with regard to constituting a National Water Mission has been taken in order to discuss and resolve all issues related to water;

(b) if so, by when the constitution of the Mission is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when the Mission is likely to start functioning?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.